

MANCHESTER SPECIAL COMMISSION (1867).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 24 July 1877.—*for*,

"COPIES of the RECORD of the CONVICTION of *William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore*, at the Special Commission held at *Manchester* in the Months of October and November 1867, for the MURDER of *Serjeant Brett*:"

"Of any REPRIEVE or PARDON granted to *Thomas Maguire*:"

"Of any LETTER or LETTERS written by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, communicating the fact of such PARDON:"

"AND, of the CONVICTION of *Michael Davitt and John Wilson* at the Central Criminal Court in the Month of July 1870."

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COPY of the RECORD of the CONVICTION of *William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore*, at the Special Commission held at *Manchester* in the Months of October and November 1867, for the MURDER of *Serjeant Brett*.

LANCASHIRE, to Wit.

BE it remembered that at a Special Session of Gaol Delivery held at the Assize Courts in Manchester in and for the County Palatine of Lancaster on Saturday, the Twenty-sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Sixty-seven, before Her Majesty's trusty and well-beloved Sir Colin Blackburn, knight, and Sir John Mellor, knight, Justices of the Delivery of the Gaol of the said County Palatine of certain prisoners therein being;

Upon the oaths of 23 good and lawful men of the body of the county aforesaid, then and there sworn and charged to inquire for our said Lady the Queen, and for the body of the said county;

It is presented in manner and form following, that is to say:—

LANCASHIRE, to Wit.

The jurors for our Lady the Queen upon their oath present that *William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore*, on the Eighteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and Sixty-seven, feloniously, wilfully, and of their malice aforethought, did kill and murder one Charles Brett, against the peace of our Lady the Queen, Her Crown and Dignity.

And now at this same Special Session of Gaol Delivery of our said Lady the Queen, held as aforesaid, the said *William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore*, in custody of Thomas Dicoconson, esquire, sheriff of the said county, to whose custody they were before for the cause aforesaid committed, came in their own proper persons, and by the said sheriff were brought to the bar, and having had hearing of the indictment aforesaid, they, the said *William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore*, each saith he is not guilty of the premises aforesaid in the indictment aforesaid above on him alleged, and of the good and evil thereof doth put himself upon the country. And Sir John Burgess Karlake, knight, Attorney General for our said Lady the Queen, who for our said Lady the Queen, here in this behalf prosecutes, doth so likewise.

Therefore let a jury, &c. And the said last-mentioned jury by the said sheriff

returned, empanelled, and sworn, to wit, twelve good and lawful men of the body of the county aforesaid, being called, sworn, and being charged, elected, and sworn to try and speak the truth in and upon the premises aforesaid in the indictment aforesaid, upon their oath say that the said William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore, are, and each and every of them is guilty of the premises aforesaid in the indictment aforesaid above on them alleged.

Whereupon, all and singular the premises being seen and understood by this Court here,

It is considered, and adjudged by this Court here, that the said William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore, be severally hanged by the neck until they be dead and their bodies buried within the precincts of the prison in which they shall be last confined after their respective convictions.

Pursuant to the provisions of an Act made and passed in the Session of Parliament held in the fourteenth and fifteenth years of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, entitled, "An Act to amend the Law of Evidence," I hereby certify under my hand that the foregoing paper is a true copy of the record of the indictment, trial, and convictions of, and the judgments upon, the before-named William O'Mara Allen, Michael Larkin, William Gould, Thomas McGuire, and Edward Shore, omitting the formal parts of the said record.

Dated the First day of August One thousand Eight hundred and Seventy-seven.

T. N. Shatterworth,

Clerk of Assize for the Northern Circuit, and having the custody of the Records of the Court where the above mentioned convictions took place.

COPY of PARDON granted to *Thomas McGuire*.

(signed) VICTORIA REG.

WHEREAS THOMAS MCGUIRE was at a Special Session of Assize, holden at Manchester in November instant, convicted of murder, and sentenced to death for the same:

We, in consideration of some circumstances humbly represented unto us, are graciously pleased to extend our grace and mercy unto him, and to grant him our free pardon for the crime of which he stands convicted; our will and pleasure therefore is, that you cause him the said Thomas McGuire to be forthwith discharged out of custody, and for so doing this shall be your Warrant.

Given at our Court at St. James's, the 12th day of November 1867, in the Thirty-first year of our reign.

To our trusty and well-beloved the Governor of the Prison at Salford, in the County of Lancaster, and all others whom it may concern.

By Her Majesty's Command,

(signed) *Guthorne Hardy*.

COPY of LETTERS written by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, communicating the fact of such Pardon.

Sir,

Whitehall, 13 November 1867.

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and to acquaint you, in reply, that, after careful inquiry instituted at the desire of the learned judges and the Attorney General, there appears to Mr. Hardy to be good ground to believe that the defence made

made by Thomas McGuire was true, and he has therefore been recommended to Her Majesty for an unconditional pardon.

W. D. Seymour, Esq., Q.C.,  
Temple.

I am, &c.  
(signed) A. F. O. Liddell.

Sir,

Whitehall, 13 November 1867.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, and I am to acquaint you, in reply, that after careful inquiry, instituted at the desire of the learned judges and the Attorney General, there appears to Mr. Hardy to be good ground to believe that the defence made by Thomas McGuire was true, and he has therefore been recommended to Her Majesty for an unconditional pardon.

Captain Gore Jones, R.N.,  
United Service Club, Pall Mall.

I am, &c.  
(signed) A. F. O. Liddell.

Sir,

Whitehall, 12 November 1867.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter regarding the case of the convicts now under sentence of death at Manchester, and I am to acquaint you that, after careful inquiry instituted at the desire of the learned judges and the Attorney General, there appears to Mr. Hardy to be good reason to believe that the defence made by Thomas McGuire was true, and he has therefore been recommended to Her Majesty for an unconditional pardon.

Mr. J. Thomson,  
38, Butler-street, Manchester.

I am, &c.  
(signed) A. F. O. Liddell.

Sir,

Whitehall, 12 November 1867.

I AM directed by Mr. Secretary Hardy to acknowledge the receipt of your letter regarding the case of the convicts now under sentence of death at Manchester, and I am to acquaint you that, after careful inquiry instituted at the desire of the learned judges and the Attorney General, there appears to Mr. Hardy to be good reason to believe that the defence made by Thomas McGuire was true, and he has therefore been recommended to Her Majesty for an unconditional pardon.

Robert Worthington, Esq.,  
96, King-street, Manchester.

I am, &c.  
(signed) A. F. O. Liddell.

ABSTRACT of the RECORD of the CONVICTION of *Michael Davitt and John Wilson*, at the Central Criminal Court, in the Month of July 1870.

#### COUNTS of the INDICTMENT.

1. Compassing to deprive and depose the Queen from the Style, Honour, and Royal Name of the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

2. Compassing to levy war against the Queen in Ireland, in order by force and constraint to compel her to change her measures and counsels.

#### JUDGMENT given on each Count.

#### SENTENCE:—

John Wilson, 14 years' penal servitude.

Michael Davitt, 30 years' penal servitude.

